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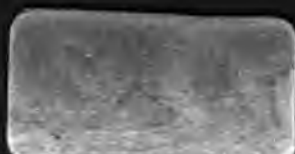
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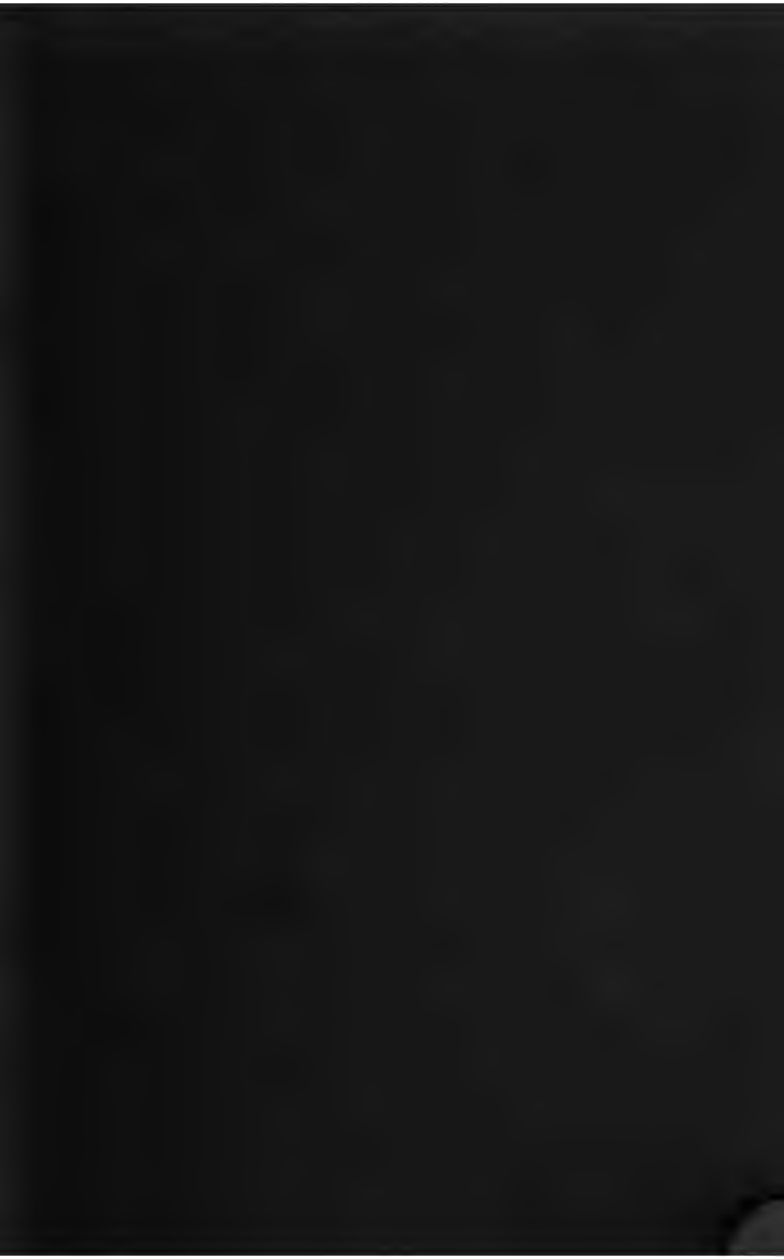
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THE  
VIOLET CHILD OF ARCADIA

&c.

LONDON: PRINTED BY  
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE  
AND PARLIAMENT STREET

THE  
VIOLET CHILD OF ARCADIA

AND OTHER POEMS

BY THE  
AUTHOR OF 'VASCO'



LONDON  
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.  
1872

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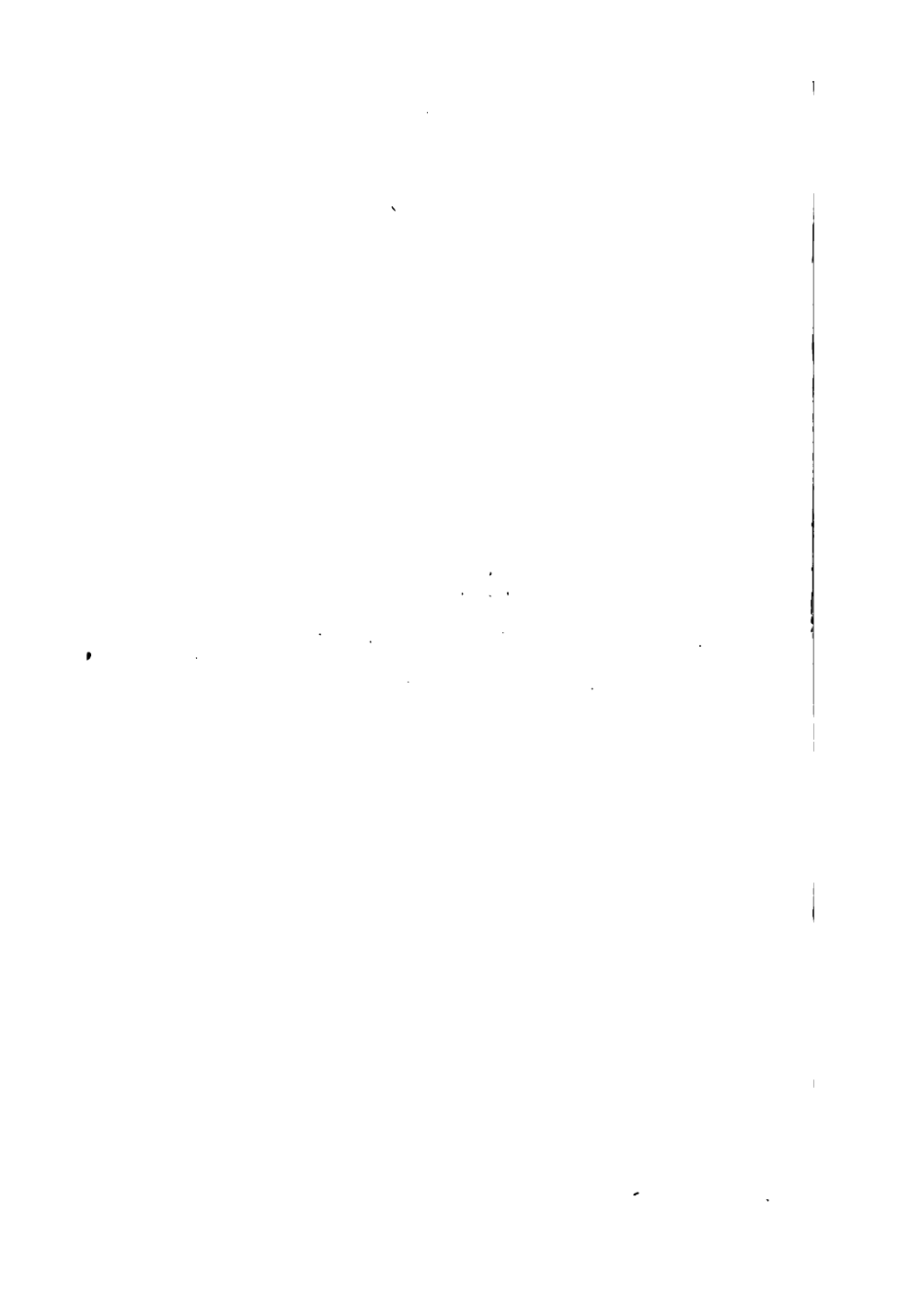
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*To*

*J. T.*

*quæ ex hac vitâ in meliorem abiit*

*Die Jul. XXIV. MDCCCLXIX.*



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*The Lost Maiden.*

## THE LOST MAIDEN.

### *Part I.*

#### *Chorus.*

MORN breaks! she rises from her mother's breast  
And casts aside the glittering diamond vest  
Which shrouds her wealth of loveliness from sight;  
And, joyful, at the Lord of Day's behest  
She threads the pastures, with a step so light  
That little wild-blooms lift their heads to see  
Persephoné,

Crowned is the maiden; not a wandering fay  
But drops some tribute flower upon her way;

<sup>1</sup> This poem, 'Meleagros, or the Burning Brand,' and the 'Violet Child of Arcadia' (as well as the four pieces on classical subjects in 'Daytime and Nighttime') were suggested to the writer by the perusal of 'Tales of Ancient Greece' and 'The Mythology of the Aryan Nations,' by the Rev. George W. Cox, M.A.

In Démêtér we recognise the Earth, mourning the death of her Summer Child.

No sprite so heedless but he pauses nigh  
To twine for her some little random wreath  
And greet the laughing glances of her eye,  
And share the sweetness of her fragrant breath—  
A miracle of form and colour she !

Persephoné.

As soft she treads the myrtle groves, new dyes  
Illumine her brow, bedeck her vest ; while rise  
Fresh glories 'neath her touch, o'er mead and glade ;  
She laughs—each emulous companion sighs—  
' Beside thy wreath, all other chaplets fade !'  
And yet they cannot frown upon the maid

Persephoné.

' Oh ! sweet the perfume of yon golden flower  
Dropped from Olympian height by Hêrê's hand !  
It sends its fragrance back to bless the sky,  
And breathes love-odours thro' each sylvan bower—  
Breaks forth a smile of joy o'er sea and land !  
Rapture enthralls my soul ! my heart beats high !'  
With flying step she hastens o'er the lea,

Persephoné.

But soon the rosy bloom forsakes her brow,  
' Oh ! fair Narcissus ! let me clasp thee now !'



Vainly her blanching lips the words repeat :  
Why trembles thus the ground beneath her feet ?  
What hand disturbs the lichened rocks, and lifts  
Encrusted piles—through dark and gloomful rifts  
Revealing secrets of the earth below ?  
Why roll the tangled masses to and fro ?  
Why rises from the depths a lurid glow ?  
Démêtêr weeps ! and murmurs falteringly  
' Alas ! my beauteous child ! he comes for thee,  
Persephoné.'

Still strain the hands to clasp the golden flower ;  
Delight alternates with a nameless dread ;  
Faintly she sighs—' Oh ! mother ! wondrous this !  
I hear them whisper 'tis my bridal hour,  
And yet a mist arises o'er the mead—  
I hear the thunder of a coming storm—  
I miss the smile of the bright Lord of Day !  
I feel a phantom chain around my form—  
And phantom hands are bearing me away !  
He says it is his love—it is his power—  
Yet o'er me falls the coldness of the tomb !  
My bridal joy is lost in mist and gloom !'  
Démêtêr weeps ! her child she cannot see—  
Persephoné.

The coursers rise from cavernous abyss,  
With sombre pomp by grim Hephaistos decked ;  
They bend to champ the bit—to toss the mane—  
Arch their proud necks—then glorious stand erect ;  
To wait the summons of the King of Night—  
Darkens the mist across the brodered plain—  
A veil of awful omen circles down—  
Resistless Fate ! she trembles by his side—  
Resistless Fate ! the Night-king claims his bride—  
Echoes o'er hill and vale and stream her cry  
As swift th' immortal coursers pass from sight  
Bearing the maiden of the roseate crown

Persephoné.

*Part II.*

*2nd Chorus.*

THEN rises sad Dêmêtêr's mourning wail—  
Can gods and men behold her woe unmoved ?  
The dew of anguish lies upon her brow—  
She pales and trembles, sorrowing for the loved,  
The lost ! the bride of Hades far away,  
The child, whose presence she was wont to hail  
Rejoicingly, wreath-garlanded and gay  
Swift-faded from her view ; those arms enfold

No smiling loveliness—but, reft of all,  
Emptied—they fall.

Oh! hear her wail! ye gods and men, behold  
This sad Dêmêtêr in her agony—  
She sorrows for the young and beautiful;  
No emerald buds, no fairy flowers, to cull  
From gardens canopied with golden dyes—  
No crowned Persephoné enchants her eyes!  
Sterile and bare and bleak frowns earth below  
Lonesome she drains the measure of her woe—  
Oh! sad Dêmêtêr! gods and men arise,  
Draw from the caverned depths the spoiler's prize!  
That Beauty's smile may gladden earth once more.

Behold the mother clad in mourning guise  
Wearing the sable robe—a veil sweeps o'er  
That form whose radiance vanished, as the sigh  
Of the lost maiden fell upon her ear—  
' Oh! love! oh love! my child Persephoné!  
Heart of my heart, and light of lights to me!  
Had I not sorrowed o'er a transient tear?  
But that unheeded wail—that last faint cry—  
Ah! to a mother's heart 'twas death to hear!'

*Part III.**Chorus.*

SHE draws the veil around her—gliding on—  
O'er land and sea to seek the loved and lost—  
Swiftly she speeds to Hekaté's dim cave—  
A pale blue light breaks o'er the vault of grey  
Lofty and gem-embossed ;  
A pale blue wave  
Bearing along its fringe of curling spray  
Kisses the tinted tessellated ground ;  
And mermaids seek to lave,  
In all the luxury of still repose,  
Their locks in its clear current, as it flows  
Calmly before the sight  
Of the pale goddess of the Night.

*Démèter.*

'Passed she within thy ken—the blooming maid?—  
' Say—didst thou see  
A queenly nymph in gala dress arrayed—  
Persephoné?'

*Hekattē.* 'I saw the daylight into evening fade—  
Five stars I laid  
To chase the darkness and illumine the spot  
Where she is not.

'O! mourning mother! gaze anew and see—  
And, as they burn,  
Let hope arise for thy Persephoné—  
She shall return.'

*Part IV.*

*Chorus.*

DÊMÊTĒR sighs; and passes on her way  
Through spheres resplendent with eternal day—  
To greet Hyperion's royal son;  
She views him in his might  
Treading, in godlike calm—the crystal floor—  
Enkindling all he deigns to gaze upon—  
He may not yield to Grief a transient sigh—  
'The fate of mortals is, to sin and die—  
The fate of man to suffer and endure—  
Gods breathe diviner air—reach loftier height!'

Dêmêtêr trembles as she meets the light !  
Within her hand she ceases not to hold  
The star of Hope, as one a torch might bear—  
Yet pales its shine to nought  
Before the glitter of his crown of gold ;  
She trembles at the sight  
Oppressed with palsied fear ;  
Yet, pausing long, a sense of nearness brings  
A sense of power before unknown—  
While kindling love fresh fervour lends  
To every glance and tone ;  
Aside she flings  
The darksome dread—and bends  
Before the hero undismayed,  
Her heart's fierce throbbing stayed—  
And swift breaks into words the eager thought ;

*Dêmêtêr.* ' Oh ! thou far-seeing Helios ! look upon  
This mortal agony—  
' Say where my child, the Beautiful, is gone—  
Persephoné !

Thou, mighty Helios ! view'st the vast world laid  
Low, 'neath thy throne—  
Let Grief be heard ! where shall I find the maid ?  
Where is she gone ?'

*Chorus.*

The smile of Helios broke athwart the sky—  
Olympos swayed with rapture deep and high—  
As that enkindling glow pervaded space—  
Dimming all lesser lights, and filling heaven  
With beams forth-glancing from the sun-god's face—

And Helios' smile was to Dêmêtêr given !

*Helios.* Beneath the earth, in the land unseen  
Where cold gems hide,  
Aidoneus reigneth, a sceptred king  
With thy child, his bride.  
Love claimed for him the young and fair—  
Love led her to his realm—a crownèd queen—  
His throne to share.

*2nd Chorus.*

Ceases the god—and swift a mist of gold  
Rolls o'er Olympos' height  
The glories of the presence to enfold  
And shroud from sight.

*Part V.**Chorus.*

DÊMÊTÊR turns in mingled grief and wrath  
Forth from the upper spheres ;  
And tracks a path,  
Through tangled grove, and fen, and arid field,  
Far past the haunts of man ;  
Till, weary with the weariness of woe  
She sinks beside the rocky moss-grown cleft  
O'er which the waters of Eleusis flow.  
Fresh mountain winds o'erarching banners fan  
From cypress tall,  
As, lingering there, despairing and bereft,  
With tresses shorn, and face concealed  
Beneath th' enshrouding veil, she hears  
The waters drip and fall  
From sparkling fount above  
Down to their shining granite bed below ;  
Sadly she lingers there—  
Fresh-rolled upon her heart the weight of love—  
' Of what avail on gods or men to call ? '  
Sadly she lingers there—  
None hail in her Dêmêtêr once so fair !



*Part VI.**Metaneira to Dèmèter.*

DAUGHTER of Gloom ! why dost thou lonesome wait  
Watching the ripple of the babbling wave,  
Watching the happy maids their tresses lave ?  
What arrow wounds thee from the hand of Fate ?  
Say, wherefore thus disconsolate ?

Come, veiled mourner ! Keleos reigns, a king  
Before whose burnished throne all wanderers kneel,  
His sceptred hand is free and merciful,  
His heart is fain Misfortune's woes to heal,  
His wealth consoles the suffering.

Behold him, crowned, in royal garb attired  
Pouring libations to the gods, before  
Each altar in his kingly house ; and, fired  
With generous gladness, gracing now the feast,  
While—unforgetful of the least—  
He bids each stranger quaff the goblet full.

Daughter of Mystery ! let joy break o'er  
Thy path—'accept the goods the gods provide'—  
The heavens are blue and fair—the world is wide—

Thus is it Wisdom's part  
To lull the sorrow of a suffering heart—  
A dawning hope to nurse—a Future hail—  
Nor sigh amid' the ashes of the Past—  
Then from thy form the mourning peplos cast—  
Dismiss the shrouding veil—  
And to these listening ears reveal thy tale.

*Part VII.*

*Chorus.*

UNCHEERED, Dêmêtêr listens to the call—  
Burdened, and sore opprest  
Her soul refuses to be comforted—  
Untasted, from her lips she turns the wine—  
Yet, drawn by gentle hands, behold her led  
Within the palace chambers of the king—  
Fair halls, with gold and porphyry glistening—  
And here she lulls the royal babe to rest,  
Anoints his form with streams ambrosial,  
And, as eve deepens, kindles holy fire ;  
Love, new-awakened in her breast  
Availing to inspire  
Hope for this child of earth—' Let power divine  
Grant to my nursling—immortality.'

*Part VIII.**Démèter to Metaneira.*

TREMBLEST thou then?

Thy craven fear works loss and death to him.  
For him no more the sacred flame shall burn—  
Thou faint of heart, and barren of belief!  
For him I fain had won  
That gift, of every gift divine the chief—  
But at thy will abides the work undone—  
Back to the dust thine offspring shall return.

Yea! in the future dim  
These eyes behold him lie  
A pallid corpse upon the distant strand;  
Ev'n as the sons of men,  
Ev'n as the great Achilleus—he shall die!

And yet—the gold-haired child!  
Because within these arms he slumbered long—  
Because his innocent beauty smiled  
Beneath the nurture of this minist'ring hand—  
Though brief the span of life to him decreed—  
In scrolls which limn Futurity, I read  
'Honour and fame shall to his name belong.'

*Part IX.**Chorus.*

SAY, can the heavens above rejoice, while woe  
O'erclouds Dêmêtêr's heart? ah! no!  
Say, can the earth be glad, and yield increase  
E'er sad Dêmêtêr's mournings cease?  
Ah! no! the heavens above—the earth beneath  
Sorrow, as still she sorrows for the lost—  
Each piercing wintry breath  
Driving the dead leaves o'er the arid ground,  
Each stern, storm-laden sound,  
Each hopeless cry of mariner tempest-tossed—  
Blends with the pangs of misery that still  
Dêmêtêr's spirit fill,  
Deploring Beauty hid from sight  
Within the realm of Hades—Lord of Night.

Unheeded, from Olympos rings the call  
Of Iris, through the troubled skies—  
In vain the tones of godlike voices fall  
Bidding the Mourner rise—

Stern is her brow—unbending is her will—  
‘An exile I, in alien lands, until  
Zeus rules the Captive Maid once more to free  
My loved Persephoné!’

*Part X.*

*2nd Chorus.*

THERE is darkness—yet Light is in hiding—  
There is storm—but it rageth to die—  
Droops a veil—for a season dividing—  
Gather clouds—but they float from the sky.

There are tears—but in Love-rays they vanish—  
Chill fears—but they fade from the breast—  
There are heart aches—their memories perish—  
And sobs—they are hushed into rest,

Breaks the sky into stretches of bright-blue,  
Smiles the pasture in verdant array—  
Bathes the earth 'neath the droppings of light-dew.  
Bloom the vales—at the dawning of Day.

*Part XI.*

*3rd Chorus.*

WHAT music is swelling melodious  
The rapture of gods to inspire—  
Soft-breathing, in effluent sweetness ?  
'Tis the sound of the seven-stringed Lyre.

How dulcet the voice of the Singer,  
At his seraph-call, Harmony wakes,  
And rising ecstatic from slumber  
The clifts of Parnassus forsakes—

' I pass with the melody mingled,  
' I live in the utt'rance divine—  
' Thou, Hermes—Enchanter—Deceiver—  
' Child-Minstrel ! the song gift is thine.'

He sings, and earth-songsters are silent :  
He sings, and earth-multitudes thrill ;  
While nether powers, thrall'd into meekness,  
Submissive his mandates fulfil,

Then, to glorious Apollôn he yields it—  
‘This gold harp thy revels shall grace—  
To fair spirits murmuring music,  
But mute to the sordid and base.’

*2nd Chorus.*

Behold the simoom of the desert  
With fiery blast rising to slay—  
Thou Hermes ! Enchanter, Pursuer—  
Man trembles appalled at thy sway.

Afar wave the forests of cedar—  
Uprooted and prostrate they fall—  
Thou Hermes ! Enchanter, Destroyer —  
Thy breath is a death-doom to all.

*3rd Chorus.*

Haste, Hermes ! swift Herald ! forth sweeping—  
The darkness of Hades to near—  
Deep counsels of Zeus in thy keeping,  
And the sigh of the lost in thine ear—

Yon underworld—Beauty enveiling—  
Shall yield at thy summons its prey—  
And the sound of Dêmêtêr's lone wailing  
Shall die in the distance away.

Unpausing he breathes on the Maiden—  
Aroused, she upsprings to the earth—  
While the heart of the Mother, sore-laden  
Rebounds in a rapture of mirth.

*Part XII. and Last.*

*Chorus.*

CHANGED be the burden of the song again—  
From measures low and faint  
Weighted with dire complaint,  
Awake another strain.  
Light dawns across the landscape grey and dim—  
And mortals hail Dêmêtêr's springtide Hymn.<sup>1</sup>

*Dêmêtêr.* Rejoicing song, arise !  
Sweep with thy harmonies o'er land and sea—  
Behold ! the lost is found !  
Afar and near—with tremulous delight—  
Let every whispering echo bear the sound,  
'She comes ! she comes, the loved Persephoné.'

<sup>1</sup> *In writing this hymn, one thought was present to the mind—  
Thus I—if Heaven restored the Loved to me.*



Well-springs of ecstasy, these weeping eyes—  
Tears such as these yield sight !  
Cease, raptured heart-throbs, that thus madly bound—  
Cease ! else the gift bestowed shall swift destroy—  
Temper thy brightness, Joy !

And do I greet my child ? awakes the land  
Once more to light of day ?  
Dimple the waters on the glowing strand,  
Laughs every vale, and wooded hill, and plain—  
Waves high the golden grain,  
As, 'neath thy sway,  
Each bud and bough, obedient to command,  
Casts forth its blossoms, and again  
Pours from the heart of all a blithesome strain.

Glowes every day-star in its mossy bed,  
Gleams every spring-bell in its sylvan nook—  
Fast ripples on the wondering, wakeful brook—  
Brightlier the night-stars shine—  
In each entranced look  
That smiles, above, below, around—I see  
'She comes, she comes, the lost Persephoné,'

Down the hill-steep, the bleating flocks attend  
A royal feast to share—  
The hornèd heads of dappled cattle bend  
Amazed, rejoicing, at the wealth outspread  
O'er pastures fair ;  
Rich luscious fruits drop lavish from the trees—  
Birds swoop to seek the spoil ;  
And, safe ensconced in sweet bells, murmuring bees  
Luxuriate in their toil,  
From golden cup to cup unsated led ;  
All share the brightness shed  
Over the land, as swift she hastes to me—  
'She comes, my beauteous child, Persephoné !'

And do I greet thee ? gift of Zeus on high—  
And meet thy smile,  
Bask in thy beauty—count each garnered grace—  
And in thy face  
Read each familiar glance thus blissfully  
With new-awakened sense of love the while ?

Oh ! love more strong than adamant—  
Oh ! yearnings, constant, deathless, infinite—  
Rejoice, thou love ! rest, yearnings, satisfied—  
Share now an unimagined flood of light  
After the night.

Love is a despot, and designs t' enchant—  
Joy is a despot—and disdains to hide—  
Led by the pair, my spirit sweeps along  
Into this jubilee of song.

Yes ! from the mournful gloom of Hades' shade  
A godlike voice prevailed  
To draw the blooming maid—  
'She comes !' the sound I heard, and hailed—  
'Twas blissful agony to wait—to wait—  
My child to see—  
Doubt rose, lest cross-darts from the hand of Fate  
Should bar this bliss from me—  
'She comes !'—o'erarching fell the rays  
Of Zeus, 'neath his imperial canopy—  
That the life-giving blaze  
Th' infused strength of quickening beams  
Should shield Dêmêtêr from the touch  
Of the stern Lord of Death—  
Lest rapture over much  
Swiftly engulf her in its rushing streams—  
The light shone o'er us—shedding warmth beneath—  
Reviving with its love-rays mild—  
And in her arms Dêmêtêr clasped her child !—

Yet—not for ever !  
There is a shadow o'er the distance laid—  
Zeus in his counsels wills again to sever  
The Beautiful—from sad Dêmêtêr's side ;  
Aidoneus claims his bride—  
Again the coursers shall appear  
In gloomful pomp, yoked to the phantom car—  
These emptied arms anew shall droop and fall—  
The bitter wail shall ring from far—  
Ev'n now, methinks I hear  
That last faint cry which smote a mother's ear !—

There is a shadow o'er the landscape laid—  
For thus hath Zeus decreed—  
Glories of earth are transient, and shall fade,  
Change and decay  
Are pre-ordained in counsels most divine—  
Fast fades the day,—  
Fitful the shine  
Of the great orb—night gathers, shrouding all—  
There, there alone, on yon Olympian height  
Dwells sempeternal Light !



*Meleagros ; or, the Burning Brand.*

## MELEAGROS, OR THE BURNING BRAND.

### *Part I.*

#### *The Moirai.*

ALTHAIA ! beware, beware !

Hark to the thunder that fills the air—

A red gleam flashes athwart the sky,

And shrill is the death-bird's cry.

Snatch the torch from the wreathing flame,

For true is the burden of prophecy—

Let the kindling fire its victim claim,

And thy son shall die—thy son shall die !

#### *Chorus.*

THE torch is snatched from the glowing flame ;

And the heart of the mother beats high—

With dreams of honour, and earthly fame,

For the infant slumbering by.

Blind are these children of mortal race !

Veiled is the Future of doom—

They smile on a phantom, and miss the trace

Of death and a yawning tomb.

*Althaia.* OH ! rescued brand ! oh ! fatal brand !

More precious than rubies, more precious than pearls,

While round thee the blue vapour curls,

While exulting I clasp thee, I vow no hand

Save mine shall dare invade,

No touch profane unlock the lid,

No eye behold where thou art hid,

In my perfumed treasure-house laid.

An immortal name, and the wreath of fame

Be the meed of my princely son !

Let the black night storm, let Death's grisly form

Ne'er shadow his sun-bright way—

Be the words unspoken—the weird threads broken,

The Erinyes' chill work undone—

And supernal might crown his arms in fight,

As he rides, the victor in many a fray,

With his warriors of Kalydon.



*Part II.*

*Chorus.*

UNPAUSING, unhasting—Time courses on—  
And a score of summers are fled,  
Since the warning sound smote the air around,  
And the wailful words were said.

He hails the perils of sanguine war,  
And forth speeds in brave array ;  
While Fame attends the victorious car  
And crowns his brow with bay.

His glancing spear waves high aloft  
And a warlike host lays low ;  
Mailed foemen die, as the missiles fly  
From his strong unerring bow.

A darksome dread assails the souls  
Of the legions advancing on—  
' See ! the host recedes, as our hero leads  
His warriors of Kalydon.'

But a stain of guilt defiles the land—

From afar awakes the cry—

‘ They perish, they perish, the veteran band !

By his sword his *kinsmen* die !’

*Part III.*

*2nd Chorus.*

THE victor is weary of conquest,

The Champion is sated with strife ;

A black cloud of omen arising

Draws nearer to darken his life ;

Ah ! vain was the dread Sisters’ warning—

And vain was the answering deed—

The pale web of doom may not perish,

Weird hands may not slacken their speed.

Unclassped is his grand burnished helm—

His spear stands at rest by his side—

And peace-trophies cluster around him

As he smiles in victorious pride.

*Part IV.*

*Meleagros.*

THE lyre sounds sweetly in the Halls of light  
    Whence festal harmonies  
Are gently wafted o'er yon crystal stream  
Which winds its course in haste to reach the bay,  
While broidered meads look up and bless the wave  
That thus delights their fragrant wealth to lave,  
And every bending tree with rapture sighs  
In listening to the distant melting lay  
Which answering echo softly bears along,  
A floating argosy of dreamful song.

The lyre sounds sweetly as her voice ascends  
    In cadence rich and full  
Nearing Olympian heights, and—rising, blends  
With utt'rance high ; while, as we idly cull  
Each flower Dêmêtêr's fairy child bestows,  
Life smiles, and fast each blissful moment flows.

I, too, have toiled and bled on battle-plain,  
    Shall Strife bear sway alone?  
Shall Zeus ordain that men shall madly strain  
    Nor ever list to gentler tone,

Nor taste of Hebe's cup 'neath azure skies—  
Nor greet Persephoné in roseate guise?

Behold ! the gathered might of Kalydon,  
Dauntless in war, opposing hosts to quell—  
In hostile force arrayed,  
Fell back, appalled, dismayed ;  
Fast round the monster hailed the deadly shower,  
Launched from each bow its missile still in vain,  
Till I arose with power,  
This glancing spear uplifted yet again,  
And prostrate in the dust the wild boar fell.

But now, Joy speaks—I hearken to the call,  
Entrancing and divine,  
Fame's phantoms pass ; and, gladsome, yielding all  
That this once soaring spirit claimed as mine  
A votary of Peace, I seek her shrine,  
Sunning myself in radiance from her throne—  
Disdaining every gift save hers alone.

*Part V.*

*Althaia.*

A HEAV'N-ARMED champion no more !<sup>1</sup>  
 The sunrays of glory are fled—  
 And the red sign that erst on his banner was borne  
 Blanches white—while the talisman rudely is torn  
 From a bosom once noble and brave !  
 No longer I tremble before  
 The curse once pronounced on his head—  
 Lo ! the woman within me is dead—  
 For vengeance I thirst, dire, awful, and dread—  
 And the yearnings of Love, bent unswerving to save—  
 Transformed into Hate,  
 The stern Handmaid of Fate,  
 Claims loudly the life which it kindled and gave.  
  
 By his hand they are slain !  
 Yon veteran train,  
 And unburied they cry on the desolate plain  
 For vengeance against the slayer ;  
 Shall mine ears remain  
 Unheeding, and dull

<sup>1</sup> In *Althaia* we recognise the Day, towards its close, extinguishing the light of the Sun.

To the ghostly prayer?  
• While in banquetting pleasure  
He filleth the measure  
Of wrong unrebuked, till the cup is full?

No ! banish the early-love,  
Waken another love !  
Stern Rhadamanthys still reigns on his throne—  
Thence Retribution eternally flows—  
Halls of rejoicing their revels shall close,  
And in place of the lyre's soft tone  
Death-birds shall waken their ominous cry,  
As the flame of the Burning Brand mounts high.

Ye gods ! then behold,  
As this hand lifts the lid,  
And, unquailing and cold,  
Seeks the torch that is hid !  
While each golden spark flies,  
While the hot ashes rise,  
A moan and a wail  
Rings loud on the gale—  
'Tis my son—'tis Meleagros—who dies !'

*Part VI.*

*Chorus.*

INSATIATE vengeance thus hath claimed a mortal  
price—  
Content the pale Erinyes view the sacrifice !

*2nd Chorus.*

Yet, 'neath the regal panoply, one heart  
Groans with the sting of memory's poison'd dart ;  
Wildly all tender yearnings rise and stir,  
And death to him is more than death to her ;  
Thro' circling years, a pale shade wanders on  
Dimming with tears the bowers of smiling Kalydon.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Greek myth makes the death of Althaia and Kleopatra follow speedily on that of Meleagros. Vide *Mythology of the Aryan Nations*, vol. ii. p. 161.

*The Violet Child of Arcadia.*



THE VIOLET CHILD OF ARCADIA.<sup>1</sup>*Part I.**Arcadia.*

WHERE blest Arcadia's leafy veterans rear  
 Their emerald fans on high ;  
 Where down the hill-side, streamlets bright and clear  
 Murmur rejoicingly ;  
 Where Morning wears her garb of festal light,  
 Freshly anew bedight,—  
 And rose-tints linger glad  
 Where earlier the purple glow hath been—  
 While each awakening beauty glads the sight,  
 From the fair lily, 'neath its shrouding green,  
 To giants on the height :  
 Where trailing blossoms scent the air around :  
 Where rich meads faint beneath their wealth of gold  
 And bleating flocks that stray beyond the fold  
 List to the sheep-bell's sound

<sup>1</sup> This story possesses an added interest, when we trace the analogy between it and the HOLY SCRIPTURE narrative of some passages in the life of Moses.

While lazy cattle o'er wide pastures stray  
Tracking their aimless way,  
In unimaginative calm repose ;—  
And Man forgets a distant world of woe  
Since sweet dreams pluck the sting from fancies sad  
'Neath genial Nature's sway ;—  
Where every stream that flows  
Bears on its bosom winged and shining motes,  
Each, as it restless floats,  
Hailing a brother on the waters' breast ;  
And silver scales dip low,  
Rising anon to catch the gorgeous dye  
That drapes the spreading sky—  
Then, quiv'ring, plunge to meet the Nereid throng,  
And thrill beneath the music of their song ;—  
Where—as winged Time his ceaseless course pursues  
New glories rise, new joys diffuse—  
And Wealth unfolds her treasures far and near—

Within this Paradise  
Alas ! a pale and shadowy form may rise,  
And Grief find entrance here !

*Part II.**Evadne in Arcadia.*

SHE sighs, as one who some sad message hears—  
She weeps salt tears—  
The infant slumbers in unbroken rest ;  
Close to her heart is prest  
The tender fragile form ; and as she bends  
To kiss away the drops her sorrow lends,  
Fresh floods fall fast upon the innocent cheek  
And o'er the dimpled hand, which stirs to seek  
Ev'n in unconscious trance, the dear caress.

She pauses yet to bless  
The little slumberer ; then, as in dismay  
Lest strength newborn should ebb in love away,  
She turns, and kneeling, lays  
With trembling tenderness, her burden down,  
Within a verdant nook, whose woody crown  
Droops fondly o'er the 'gold<sup>1</sup> and purple rays'  
Of violets enclustered there,  
In velvet vesture daintily arrayed  
To blossom in the shade.

<sup>1</sup> See *Mythology of the Aryan Nations*, vol. ii. p. 81.

Again she falters o'er a mother's prayer—  
Again she turns to gaze,  
And read each rounded curve, each feature fair,  
And grave in mystic character  
Within her heart's heart all she now beholds—

Fast flow her tears !—she folds  
Yet once again, the infant form beloved ;  
Nature surveys the agony unmoved,  
Not ev'n a green leaf on the bough may stir  
To wave a welcome to the hapless child ;  
To soothe these tremors wild ;  
In mute reproach each blossom glances calm  
With pleadings which her answering heart unseals,  
' And can a mother thus her babe forsake ? '  
Sadly it chimes with every choking sigh  
As, prostrate and despairing, there she kneels.

' Oh ! may the gods watch o'er and shield from harm,  
My nursling child ! mine own !  
May serpent poison change to honey sweet ;  
And, as the hands which laid him down  
Are loving, tender be the hands which bear  
Their helpless burden hence.'

Then, Grief to tension strains each power and sense—  
Unflinching she rises—not a cry  
Breaks from her lips, as swift she hastes away,  
Treading with flying step the verdant mead—  
Oh ! empire of the heart ! how strong thy sway !

*Chorus.*

Thus is his fate decreed !  
Evadne leaves her tender babe to die ;  
Can then the gods delight,  
From their Olympian height,  
To mar with tears this paradise of earth ?  
Shall dire misfortune cloud  
Shall mourning vesture shroud  
This child of radiance even from his birth ?  
No ! let the threads pass swift  
From grisly hand to hand,  
The pale Erinyes lift  
A pitying glance—their wand  
Shall draw with wondrous power fresh succour nigh,  
And charm to gentleness the serpent eye.

*Part III.*

*The two Dragons of Helios.*

NIGHT gathers—light fades,  
Dews rise from the glades,  
And chill lies the child in his violet bed,  
The soft melting wail  
Rings far through the vale  
As the mantle of Darkness around him is spread.

Night passing—bright glancing  
Majestic advancing  
Those mighty creations sweep forth on the air ;  
Divinely they speed  
O'er the blossoming mead  
In glittering armour, upsprung from their lair.

At the summons of Morn,  
In kingly array,  
Each giant upborne  
Wings forward his way ;

And awful the thunder  
That swells thro' the sky,  
When winds rise in wonder  
To herald them nigh ;  
Rocks tremble beneath them  
As earth-bounds they near ;  
Thin white mists enwreath them,  
Then vanish in fear!  
What kindles and gleams  
Thus radiant from far ?  
Light from orbs, with their beams  
That shoot like a star ;  
While glittering scales  
Mock the earth-dyes around,  
And mournfully pales  
Every gem on the ground !

See ! they slacken their speed  
Nigh yon fair broidered mead,  
And pause in the shade  
Where the infant is laid ;  
Those grand masses rolled,  
The dread of their foes,—  
As their bright wings they fold  
In giant repose !

*Chorus.*

To temper Might with Mercy—this is *Power* ;  
From threatening thunderclouds, each shower  
Falls on the earth, that sick parched plants may live,  
And fainting flowers revive.

*Part IV.*

BEHOLD ! the wondrous pair  
Wrought into mildness rare ;  
Each mailèd wing a guardian watch now keeping  
Where the lone babe is sleeping ;  
And the fierce glitter of relentless eyes,  
Dead, as the sun-blaze of a moment dies.

Anon—as steadfast Phoibos rises high,  
List to the feeble cry  
That breaks from infant lips ; and glad behold  
Close-gathered, fold on fold  
In harmless coil around the sylvan bed,  
As—by Eumenides relenting led,  
Each giant drops the fragrant honey-mead,  
On lips that thirst and burn ;  
While eyes of innocence awake and turn  
A dreadless gaze on what is dread indeed !



*Part V.*

*Aipylos* (Chieftain of Phaisăna).

THE oracle hath spoken—shall I pause  
Supine and slothful 'neath the stirring call?  
Shall the rude clangour of this world around,  
The summons stern of tumult, warring 'gainst  
The empty ring of soulless revelry—  
Shall honied speech of courtier, oozing forth  
In streams that sicken as they melt away—  
Or suffering's wail—or song's sweet whispers, seal  
Mine ears against the mighty rolling swell  
Of vestal music breathed from Delphoi's shrine?  
Nay! rather let this higher being, linked  
With the eternal majesty of heaven  
By grand mysterious laws, yet veiled and dim—  
Thrill at the tidings borne on prophet lip—  
And gladsome hail the advent of the Seer.

*Part VI.**The Child and the Messengers of Aipyros.*

Lo ! where Arcadia's calm sequestered shade  
Offers a blest retreat :  
Where glancing spray leaps giddy chasms, to meet  
The streamlet in the glade :  
Within a verdant nook, whose wooded crown  
Droops fondly o'er the gold and purple rays  
Of violets in smiling clusters piled—  
There, where Evadné laid her burden down,  
They view the sleeping child ;  
As fair and fresh as when her circling arm  
Shielded his feebleness, and fondly twined  
Wreaths of sweet flowers his infant eyes to charm,  
And mother-kisses fell  
To soothe the sting which Suffering left behind,  
And sounds as dulcet as the evening bell  
Summoned the god of sleep to hover nigh  
And bear the burden of his faintest sigh !

*Part VII.**Iamos in the land of Aipylos.**Chorus.*

HE dwells amid Phaisāna's towers—  
Youth greatens into manhood's prime ;  
Terrestrial splendors—things of Time  
In vain would thrall his mystic hours ;

Through surging sound of revelry, his ear  
Listens for music from a distant sphere ;  
And ever and anon a voice divine  
Hallows his vigils, murmuring—'Thou art mine.'

From transient bonds of earth emancipate,  
Winged to depart, and yet 'content to wait'—  
The love within sheds light and life around,  
And where his footsteps tread—is holy ground.

*Part VIII.*

*The Seer.*

*Iamos.* NOT mine to 'bide  
Amid the clamor of th' insensate throng !  
Fame to the brave, and honor to the strong,  
And empire grand and wide

To him who loves to sway  
The floating current with resistless power  
Towards the phantom haven of an hour,  
To melt in foam away—

Let others claim earth's prize !  
Let fame and honour—empire—wealth of spoil  
Requite the thirsting heart—the straining toil—  
Rejoice the eager eyes.

This heart hath thirsted too !  
These arms have yearned each treasure to enfold,  
These eyes have sought the glitter of the gold—  
And gazed and gazed anew—

But—in the hush of even,  
 As 'neath Sêlenê's pure and tempered light  
 Phaisâna's lordly temples rose in sight—  
 A new-born fire was given—

The soft beams quivered, paled—  
 Each circling dome waxed faint, and passed in mist —  
 Each sombre fane the sculptured cirri kissed —  
 Supernal mystery veiled

The splendors of the scene—  
 Vanished each tinted plinth—each column white—  
 I towered—a newborn soul ! on Delphoi's height,  
 As tho' I ne'er had been !—

The throbbing heart was still—  
 The eyes no longer sought an earthly shrine—  
 The tumult of the soul no more was mine—  
 At rest—the restless will !

Flashed from another sphere  
 One ray, in luminous waves, and touched the ground  
 It led me thro' the vapours spread around,  
 With guidance calm and clear.

Borne as on wings, I passed  
Thro' worlds that seemed creations of a dream,  
Till close beside the wide Alpheian stream  
My spirit paused at last ;

O'er me the waters rolled,  
Swaying with gladness to receive their child—  
While, faint above, the guiding meteor smiled  
And poised its flame of gold—

Then rose my soul to heaven!  
No earthly utterance spoke—a voiceless cry  
Breathed to the sovereign ruler of the sky,  
By whom this soul was given.

Not for earth's joys I craved—  
Not for enthralling links of human love—  
Not as the peer of victor-saint to move  
'Mid perils nobly braved ;

Not for the rod of power—  
Nor for the fervid warmth of glory's glow—  
Not for the best the heart of man can know—  
Prayed I, in that dread hour—

But—lo! it lies unspoken—  
The hosts that throng Olympos hailed me there—  
They heard the answer to my mystic prayer—  
The link with earth was broken!

Loosed from its thrall, my soul  
Leapt, at Poseidôn's call, to meet its Source—  
Alas! how wearily Time's cycles course—  
How captive bonds of Space oppress the heart,  
How colourless the fragment of a Part,  
To one who knows the Whole!

## THE CAVE BY THE SEA.

I stood within a magic grotto, bright  
 With pointed stalactite and shining shell ;  
 Where pearly shields emitting varied hues  
 Of changeful colour—amber luminous—  
 Jasper and sardius and pure agate, linked  
 With tangled masses of embedded stone,  
 Rose high to reach the heavy caverned roof  
 Which lost itself in mist. Perchance the sprites  
 Who 'bide amid the clouds, but flutter nigh  
 Through hidden crevices, could peep and peer  
 To watch the revels of the fays below ;  
 Perchance the fays, wearied with rock and strand  
 Floated o' nights, by secret outlets—keen  
 To reach the happy sky and kiss the stars.  
 How shall I tell—who am a child of earth ?  
 But this I know—the stars shone glinting thro'  
 With tempered lustre, as I stood amazed  
 Within this magic grotto by the strand.



Without—the drear sea writhed and tossed and foamed,  
And mourned its fate to be the grave of men,  
    With wailful utterance, impotent and low ;  
And as the moon, thro' clouds of gossamer  
Fine, white and grey, emerged—and paused awhile  
In pity t'wards the toiling mariner—  
Each wave, attracted by her beauty, raised  
Its swelling circle, emulous to touch  
The fair pale orb that dwelt apart and high  
Calm in her pearly light and purity.

Along the stretch of saffron-tinted sand,  
Dim lights of earth, with feeble yellow flare  
Chequered the distance. Not one human voice  
Summoned the echoes from their rocky haunts  
To bear a murmured message to the dell.  
Silent I stood within the shining verge ;  
Still moaned the sea, and writhed and tossed and  
    foamed,  
Mourning its fate to be the grave of men  
With wailful utterance, impotent and drear.

Then turned I to survey the wonders shaped  
And stored within. More luminous, more weird

Each instant, shone the tints from shining shell  
And pointed stalactite, and pearly shield,  
And brighter glowed the gems' encrusted wealth,  
And tapering pendants linked in rude array  
O'er Nature's frescoed work divine and rare  
In undecyphered wisdom resting there.

I paused and gazed—when, on the breeze was borne  
An eastern perfume, heavy to the sense,  
Weighted with sweets, whose incense flooding poured  
Full on the brain, with a delicious power  
Alternate dreamful and enrapturing.  
Then shone the caverned grotto all a-light  
With myriad presences, that gleamed and paled  
And dazzled—myriad voices murmured low  
Thro' the charmed circle—whispered breathings passed  
In rapid utterance, sealed and mystical  
To mortal ear—more awful in their calm  
Than Nature's loud appealing thunder roll.  
Each fair fay shook her crystal glinting wing,  
And from each crownèd brow there fell a beam  
That—dropping on the shell-indented floor  
Revealed each far recess in vivid glow,  
And set the fairy grotto all a-blaze.  
Then rose the caverned roof to meet the stars ;

The rock to vastness greatedened—each rare shell  
Outspread its fan—while pearl, and gem, and spray  
Bathed in the light and then expanding passed  
Into a region of unmeasured space.  
I saw no bounds—above, below, around ;  
The grotto shone a world of tinted ore,  
More bright, more weird, more lovely than before.

And then, in wreaths the perfumes passed to heaven,  
And from those myriad presences poured forth  
Pure vocal incense—sound and odour blent  
In magical diffusive harmony.  
I strained to catch the burden of the song,  
Drank in each cadence, with its liquid trill.  
In vain, in vain—still sealed and mystical  
To mortal sense, and skyward borne along  
It floated past—I could not learn the song !

And then, I woke—Alas ! 'twas nought besides  
The blinding glory of that autumn morn,  
Dazing the brain ; for when Sleep fled, dismayed  
At limning wonders such as these—when wrought  
Unto a point of dreamful bliss intense

I sought to win to new created spheres—  
What met my gaze ? the crimsoned curtain drawn  
From its familiar folds, designed to veil  
Sunbeams from sleeping eyes—the vacant couch—  
The ring, the relics, and the book of Prayer—  
Alas ! no visionary world was there !

October 5, 1871.

## THE EXILE.

I MOURN for the hopes that are past and gone—  
I mourn for the joys that have fled away—  
I sigh for the light which gladd'ning shone  
To herald the dawn of a brighter day.

But the Exile has passed to the distant shore  
And the haunts of his youth frown bleak and chill  
And a shrill wind sweeps thro' the turrets hoar,  
And its echo is heard from the distant hill.

The armour must rust in the vaulted Halls—  
And the wild birds build 'neath the lintels wide ;  
And sadly the Exile afar recalls  
The Home which arose in its pomp and pride.

But while hearts still beat at a hero's name,  
And while hands still clasp 'neath an alien sky,  
The embers shall live of the glorious flame  
Which reddened the land in the days gone by.

*'L'HOMME EST UN ROSEAU PENSANT.'*

PASCAL.

MURMURING low to the mossy bank  
 The purling stream flowed gently on ;  
 Deep into verdant grass I sank  
 Close to the bed of pebbly stone  
 Whose shining treasures of varied dye  
 Were fused with the changeful gleams of sky  
 Which the loving water reflected there.

Over my head the branches spread  
 Casting their shadows everywhere,  
 And glinting bright in the sun's hot beam  
 Like an emerald palace in fairy dream  
 Oh ! beautiful earth ! oh cloudless sky—  
 Oh ! Nature—so bountiful, free, and fair !  
 Why dost thou fail to refresh me ? why  
 Still unbeguiled, in thine arms, do I lie

With a heart that throbs with a vain unrest,  
And a brow beclouded with shadowy care ?  
Is Nature so impotent—Grief so strong,  
That I cannot be borne in delight along,  
Beyond the reach of unwelcome guest ?

I gazed at the reeds which grew thickly near,  
Each lifting aloft its fairy spear—  
They breathed on the wind a thought to me—  
' Yes ! the gentle anchorite over the sea  
Hath fathomed the truth which we learn to know—  
Our glory is linked with our bitterest woe !'

## THE PORTRAIT.

YEARS have fled—in vain I listen  
 For thy tender, tuneful voice—  
 Earthly melodies fall coldly,  
 None can bid my heart rejoice ;  
 Thro' the world's unceasing clangour,  
 Thro' the sorrow and the strife,  
 Seeks my soul with changeless yearning,  
 The missing music of my life.

When I gaze upon those features  
 In their mute unchanging calm,  
 Watch those silent lips unmoving,  
 Lips which loved to yield their balm.  
 When, each morn, those dear eyes greet me—  
 Angel eyes—that love-light shone !  
 Then—with deep and fevered longing,  
 I crave one word—one gentle tone—  
 Oh ! Dearest—speak to me !

\* \* \* \*



## THE BIRD'S WAIL.

THE lone bird mourned as he sate by his nest—  
‘Alas ! for the spoiler’s prey ?’  
He wailed till the sun had sunk in the west,  
And the crimson had died away.

The sad bird’s wail was heard afar  
Beyond the bright cirrus sphere ;  
Through the thund’rous roll of the wondrous whole  
That soft feeble cry rang clear.

The lone bird sate by his leafy nest ;  
But a mystical voice was heard,  
That breathed a tale thro’ the dark night veil,  
To comfort the little bird.

And a hand unseen, ’mid the verdant green,  
Spread anew the soft moss of spring—  
That with hope new-born he should wait the Morn,  
And rest with a folded wing.

March 1871.

## THE RACE.

I stood amid the din of sounds—the crush of busy  
life,  
And willed, with passionate desire, to share the noble  
strife ;  
I called Ambition to mine aid, to nerve me for the  
fight,  
To make denials sweet, and every leaden burden  
light.

I saw the Dagon, Gold, upreared—in all his scornful  
pride,  
While Rank and Power, in jewelled pomp, sate smiling  
by his side ;  
A mighty force it was to front—unaided and alone ;  
But, overhead, the heavens were spread, and the star  
of Morning shone.

I stood amid the radiant band, where snowy brows  
were bent  
To listen to the tones that wake an ever new content;  
And I learnt that there were harmonies that thrill a  
subtler chord  
Than the flatt'ries of the prince—or the incense of the  
lord.

And, as I struggled to attain, I grasped the truth at  
length,  
That Victory rejects the gauge of gladiators' strength;  
That wheels invisible propel the car of Fame along,  
Nor is the race unto the swift—nor battle to the  
strong.

February 1868.

## THE COTTAGE IN THE GLEN.

## I

He wanders by a distant mere,  
He passes o'er the surging sea—  
New beauties rise—new forms appear—  
Yet one alone he still can see.  
Amid the crowd, the gorgeous throng,  
Amid the revel and the play—  
The haunting sweetness of her song  
Can never, never pass away.

## II

He views the tinted mountains tower,  
He views the glowing heather lie,  
He clasps the little purple flower  
Which erst was wont to charm her eye ;  
He sees the sunlit cot—the home  
Which shelt'ring nurst his tender dove,  
And o'er his eyes there falls a mist—  
The mist of tears—the tears of love.

## III

He sees her stand with upturned gaze  
To meet his glance with answering smile—  
The glorious evening sunset rays  
Lighting each distant peak the while ;  
And shedding hues of changeful light  
Upon each gable end and bough ;  
Each rugged moss-grown lintel, bright  
Beneath the fervid golden glow.

## IV

In fancy he can yet behold  
Dark lustrous eyes—a brow of snow—  
Can touch her tresses' rippling gold  
And hear her utterance soft and low.  
He lives past hours in memory ;  
And wearied turns from haunts of men—  
His heart can only vainly sigh  
For one lone cottage in the glen.

## DE CÆLO TACTA.

THERE were gleams on the heather—the lightning of  
God—

Though night's veil enveloped the purple-crowned sod;  
The thunderclaps rolled, and Earth shook in dismay  
At sight of the Terror that swept forth to slay.

Throughout the wide valley, no human abode  
Dared raise up its front where the Tempest-fiend trod  
And low lay one cot on the desolate plain—  
That cot which should ne'er shelter shepherd again.

I saw it at morn, when the red sun had spread  
His glory of beams o'er its thatch-covered head—  
I saw it at even—when, fitful and bright,  
God's death-dealing messenger flashed from the height.

And then—calm it lay in its ruin beneath,  
A wreck on the lightning-scathed marge of the heath;  
A dwelling forsaken—a refuge no more—  
For black lay the stones round the still open door!

But holy the spot where I first saw him bend,  
Where he named himself guardian, and lover, and  
Friend,  
And tho' vanished the dreams, with their radiance  
divine,  
In the 'amber of Mem'ry'—they are mine—they are  
mine!

The gloom of that home is not darkness to me—  
For still, in the lone watch, his presence I see—  
And from ruins which speak of an earthly decay,  
Rise the glories untold of an Infinite Day.

## RHODA'S LAST SONG.

I AM not alone, tho' no mortal is near,  
 I am dead to all hope, I am dead to all fear ;  
 Earth's meteors recede, as in dreams that are past,  
 And I wake to the sight of the Godhead at last.

All finite aspirings are buried and gone—  
 My soul is athirst for the Life-giving One ;  
 The mirror is cleared from each lingering stain,  
 That the Holiest may dwell in His temple again ;

And I share with the angels their raptures unseen,  
 I am bathed in their dawnlight, and shine in their  
     sheen ;  
 Unfettered by earth, and unconquered by sin,  
 My heaven hath descended—my Heaven is within.



## THE MARINER.

*(The 'Orpheus' was wrecked on the bar of Manukan,  
Feb. 7, 1863.)*

HE passed, with no cloud on his noble brow,  
With no dread in his fearless eye ;  
From the pine-clad North he wandered forth  
On ocean's breast—to die.

He had planted his foot on the ramparts stern,  
He had braved the perilous fray :  
He had stood the fire of the battery dire,  
And had moved unscathed away.

But afar, where the wide Pacific rolls ;  
Where fierce sweeps the swelling blast ;  
And storm-breakers high, surging restlessly,  
Their mountains of white foam cast :

There, afar, where a scarlet globe of fire  
Sinks beneath the illumined wave,  
In majestic pride—mid drear waters wide  
The mariner found his grave.

He stood on the floating beam, and smiled  
On the terrors of deepening dark ;  
But a black cloud pressed o'er his manly breast  
As each giant spar, rising near and far,  
Told the wreck of his noble bark.

Yes ! here was the sting of death to him—  
For his comrades' fate he bled ;  
But he lifted his gaze to the pale stars' rays,  
And the soul's fierce anguish fled ;

For a beacon rose 'mid the starry throng,  
And he hailed its meteor light  
Flashed athwart the gloom of his ocean tomb  
To illumine the pall of night.

It shone as the lamp of Faith ; it burned  
Through the spreading clouds anear ;  
And his straining eyes caught the glimpse of skies  
That imaged a brighter sphere.

Then hush the lament in the far far North !  
Soon closed was the awful strife ;  
The struggle was past, as he sank at last ;  
And ' death is the gate of life.'

## ADELAIDE'S SONG.

*(I dreamt of A. A. P., and this was the Song she sang.)*

FAIN would I quit this pale and shadowy scene,  
Chillsome and drear ;  
Swift pass the arrows o'er the face of Time,  
Swift dies the year.

First Spring forth-bounded ; with a joyous cry  
I said, ' 'Tis now  
My playmate comes to share the jubilee,  
And crown my brow.'

They thronged, the brave and gay; yet not the one  
I looked to see—  
No royal aureole encircling shone  
A guide to me—

And Spring departed, with her sweetest flowers  
Unculled, ungiven—  
While distant still uprose the glittering Towers,  
The wished-for haven.

Since then I've wandered—now, thro' pastures soft,  
Now—barren plain;  
Through darksome days this heart hath sighed full oft—  
It sighs again.

Autumn is bearing forth her golden cheer—  
Winter will come !  
I fain would leave this scene so chill and drear,  
And hasten home.

## A JANUARY FROST.

*(Sketch from nature, January 27th.)*

WHITE on the ground—white all around—  
White o'er the distance spread ;  
Leaves drooping down—plants mournful grown—  
Cold in their white white bed.

Sun a mere globe, in salmon-dyed robe,  
Set in a fleece of grey ;  
Gazing below on the frost and the snow,  
And longing to kiss them away.

Cruel gales passed—lulled every blast ;  
Stately trees waving no more ;  
Not a sound heard, save the prayer of the bird  
Hungry for bread at the door.

Chirpings that speak, all that they seek,  
Keen eyes that watch from the height—  
Straining to view what the rich hand will do—  
With chilly, expectant delight,

Redbreast alone, so intimate grown  
Hopping quite boldly along—  
Pecking the food—and, finding it good,  
Gratefully warbling a song.

Secretly cross, at the terrible loss,  
Wrought by the sparrows alone—  
Peeping so sly—as tho' to imply  
That all the rich store is gone—

Dear bird, thy ways, on these wintry days  
Moments of dearth beguile—  
It glads us to trace on thy wistful face  
A link with summer's smile.

The rapturous noon of a rose-crowned June  
Arises with gleam and glow—  
And we look for the spring, when each faded thing  
Shall wake from its bed of snow.

## AN AUTUMNAL FROST.

*(Sketch from nature, November 1866.)*

How busy the elves have been all night !  
 There's some gala in fairyland !  
 Forth wandered I early, to hail with delight  
 The work of each delicate hand.

One mass of festoons the garden shows  
 Wrought of miniature beads that shine  
 In their diamond links ; while the crystallised rose  
 Is more lovely than aught besides, Heaven knows !  
 That Fancy itself can divine.

The spiders will sigh o'er the Fairies' art—  
 And never be happy again—  
 Now that once they have seen, what Beauty may  
 mean—  
 Such Beauty as will not remain !



How gloomful and pale their webs will seem—  
Scarce worth the labor at best,  
Bereft of the radiant crystal gleam  
Of the Fairies' embroidered vest.

Just note the tracery interlaced !  
How each leaf is worked with care,  
With a fringe of brilliants deftly placed,  
And the emerald centre bare.

There are tapering icicles here and there ;  
Dropped in a heedless way ;  
And loose gems lie, for the plants to wear—  
Stray diamonds, on many a spray.

And the sun looks down on the Fairies' glee,  
And smiles, with a touch of scorn—  
For their magical work, tho' lovely it be  
Will scarce outlast the morn !

## HER BIRDS.

FRESH bedeckt are the trees  
     In their gala array ;  
 A brave April breeze  
     Sweeps pale blossoms away ;  
 And the veteran branches forbear to complain :  
     More blue is the light,  
     More vivid the green,  
 Cloud-landscape more white,  
     More smiling the scene,  
 As May with its magic draws near us again.

She strikes her loved lyre ;  
     And a crisp rapid note,  
 A *perfect fifth* higher,  
     From a young linnet's throat,  
 Bears upward the strain from the earth to the heaven :  
     She turns with a smile  
     The new singer to greet :  
     But swiftly the while,  
     The melody sweet  
 In distance is lost, and the bond 'twixt them riven.

Oh ! emulous birds,  
That join in the lay,  
And in *songs without words*  
Carol loudly away,  
This blending of music is friendly and kind :  
Her soprano ye hail  
With fine critical taste,  
And the musical tale  
Is embellished and graced  
By your sweet little voices that chatter behind.

Down the garden we pass  
By that serpentine bend  
Which winds through the grass  
To the bower at the end :  
'Mid sheltering ivy and trailing green boughs,  
And shrubs overgrown,  
Half-hidden we linger :  
She mingles her tone  
With the nearest great singer,  
Discreetly forbearing his fears to arouse :

No stringed lyre is sounding,  
We're quite in the shade :  
Other songsters surrounding,  
He is not afraid ;  
He takes her for some rather feeble-voiced thrush ;

‘Tis *counterpoint* this,  
Of most perfect design ;  
The *subject* is his,  
The *science* is mine !’  
So the *duo* proceeds in harmonious gush.

If the minstrel but knew  
What a flight he was taking,  
He’d wing his way too,  
The covert forsaking—  
Since science and little birds scarcely accord ;  
But quite unaware,  
It troubles him not,  
And long tarries he there,  
Well pleased with the spot,  
And the *flute obbligato* her warblings afford.

## THE LAKE.

I STAND beside the fair enchanted lake,  
And view the white swans slake  
Their thirst, and proudly arch their throats, and skim  
The gleaming water ; gathers round the brim  
A world of insect life : amid the throng  
Of myriad buzzing motes that float along  
Dimming the view of skyland—rises swift  
The bright-winged king, in royal dress arrayed,  
Whose colours never fade  
Beneath the hot glare of the scorching sun,  
But glitter till his short-lived race be run,  
Each whirl he takes revealing more intense  
The radiance which delights the sense.  
'Mid brushwood low the nightingale is heard ;  
Oh ! thou divinest bird !  
Sweetly thou chantest of thy springtide love !  
While, in the distance, through the pinewood grove  
The mavis and the merle suspend their lay.

See how the boat essays to float away !  
Let us untie the rope, and fright the jay,  
Croaking amid the bushes close at hand :  
The dusky water-rat swims fast to land,  
Emerging from his little island home ;  
While, nigh the margin, shoals  
Of enterprising ants work busily,  
Amid the rugged gorse-clad knolls,  
Climbing what seems to me  
A spray of heather bare of bloom—to them  
A veteran tree !

What fairy gem  
Gleams for an instant in the sunny air  
So lustrous and so rare—?  
Our gay king-fisher—with metallic shine  
He passes rapidly, no longer mine  
To view : Dear bird ! thy fears are natural,  
Yet born of folly, ev'n as we may call  
Our own too oft ; the giants whom we fear  
Show not, it may be said,  
More threatening forms of dread,  
Than ours (while tarrying serenely here)  
To shy rare birds, to whom it may appear  
A marvel undiscovered and amazing  
How giants twain should brave the noonday blazing,

Resting for hours, within a frail bark pent,  
With eyes desiring bent  
To seek the cord beneath the heaving stream,  
And watch the float dip 'neath the changeful beam  
Of gold rays on the water.

. . . . .  
Sunbeams blinding

Warn us away :  
Cool winds will lure us back at close of day :  
Row gently ! skirt each jutting brake with care  
Not to arouse the feathered nurslings there :  
Soft breathe our voices in an undertone  
Since we are not alone ;  
Each copse round which our bark is slowly winding,  
Each tangled covert, holds a throng  
Of unfledged ministers of song.

The boat sways as it nears the shore  
And touches land ;  
*Ben mio*—lend thine hand—  
Behold—I bear our wealth of lettered lore ;  
But every weightier burden thou shalt bring—  
Oh ! sweet a country life in early spring.

## IN THE WOODS.

STROLLING towards the copse, he told me where  
Wild rabbits made their lair.

We sate surrounded by o'erarching trees,  
Fanned by delicious breeze,  
In wary stillness waiting long ; nought stirred,  
No sound we heard,  
Save rustling of the branches overhead,  
As lively squirrel, showing yellow-red,  
Bounded from tree to tree,—  
With bushy tail upreared, and curious eyes  
That brightly peeped from out the leafy screen  
At every pause—so happy and so free !  
Yet quick surveying us with mute surprise ;  
Anon, in blissful folly sure  
Of secret harbor there, unseen, secure,  
Close nibbling at the stolen apple, 'mid  
The lofty boughs half-hid.

We tarried long—' Ah ! they will never come,  
Those wary wild ones ! let us loiter home ! '



Scarce ceased I—when, from out a shady hollow,  
’Twixt a decaying stump, and mossy mound,  
Forth came a pair ; then saw we quickly follow  
The little long-eared dusky throng ; no sound  
Breathed we, but watched them scampering  
Over gnarled roots, and fallen pins, and bed  
Of crispest lichen—each sad-tinted thing  
Eager to hurry where its leader led,  
And disappearing down a shady nook.

We passed the copse, with shawl and book,  
And paced sweet ‘ Vista Grove ;’ but midway paused  
Since there a sight awaited us, which caused  
Some playful moralising to ensue.  
Close on the path in view,  
Stray warrior-emmetts waged a war ; ’twas clear  
The wasp had nought to hope, and much to fear.

Onward we strolled—then loitered back again :  
The enemy was slain :  
One emmet bore the mighty mass along,  
Unaided and alone :  
A Samson, fired with resolution strong,  
Ascending every stone  
Drawing his weighty prey—I know not where !  
We laughed, and left him to his labors there ;

A modern Atlas, fated  
To have his triumph thus in song related !  
'Tis thus the *least* can sometimes overcome !'  
We clenched the moral as we sauntered home.

ON THE RIVER.<sup>1</sup>

SILVER tide—silver tide,  
 Travelling down to the sea,  
 Over thy bosom, calm and wide,  
 Our bark floats silently.

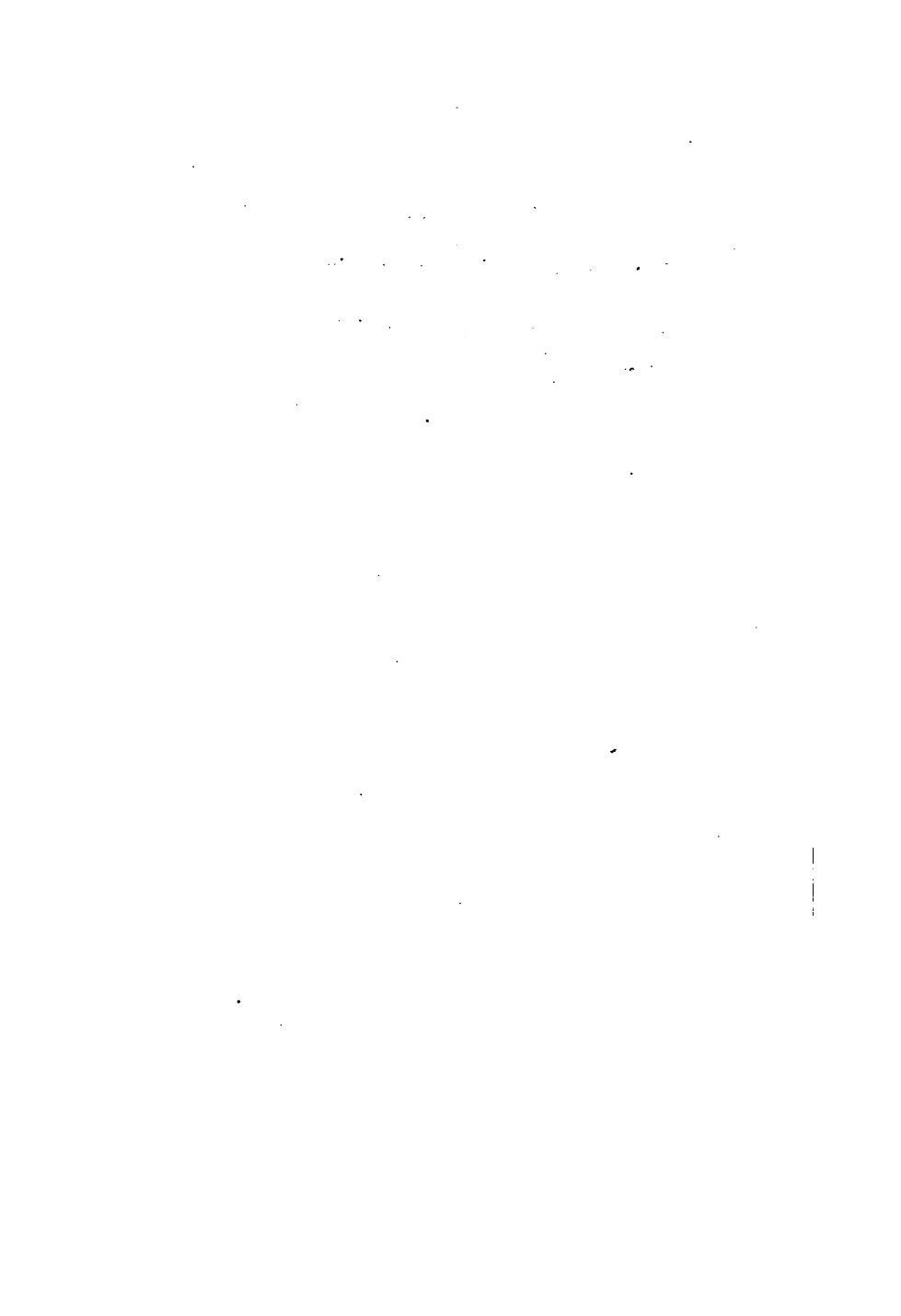
Silver tide—silver tide,  
 On, as the splashing oars  
 The swelling liquid wave divide,  
 We skirt the smiling shores ;

And we pass the copse, and the sheltered creek,  
 And the stretches of sultry plain,  
 Travelling on to the home we seek,  
 Where the rivulet meets the main.

Silver tide, silver tide,  
 Thy wanderings soon are past ;  
 As earthly pilgrims tranquil glide  
 To find their bourne at last ;

<sup>1</sup> From the writer's unpublished romance 'Thiennette.'

With hearts reflecting Heaven's sky,  
In crystal calm like thee ;  
Hasting to lose themselves, and die  
In ocean immensity.



*The Two Royal Courts of  
Art and Nature.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This poem was written, and the Music belonging to it composed, *pari passu*, by the writer, in August and September of last year, 1871.


## THE TWO ROYAL COURTS.

*(A Musical Fancy Sketch.)**Vocal Prelude.*

MUSING alone, in the sweet dawnlight  
 Before me uprises the 'Temple of Art ;'  
 While the wonders of Nature pour full on my sight—  
 For Faith is beside me, and Love in my heart.

## COURT OF ART.

OH ! glorious Temple—veiled in mystery,  
 Rising to realms of dim unfathomed height—  
 Enshrouding forms instinct with life, and hues  
 Of changeful tint that melt in light away—  
 Each tapering plinth, and flowery peristyle  
 Ascending faint into the azure mist



Which soft enfolds the tender fretted vault  
Blending the Temple with the sky of heaven ;  
Each sculptured aisle—each niche to colour wrought  
Bright unto dimness—calm to fervour heat—  
Power resting on the wing of Innocence—  
Love, with his incense and his glory beams  
Perfuming, gladdening, spreading light around  
And straining Discords into Harmony ;  
Each miracle of Thought—apart—entire—  
Each consecrate—each sacred—each divine—  
Breathed on by effluent spirits mystical,  
And grandly wrought into one perfect whole.

*In the Vestibule.*

IN wondering rapture I gaze around,  
Where o'er the Victors each Art gift is showered ;  
See ! upward glancing  
Yon blest one advancing  
With Music's wreathed laurel immortally crowned ;<sup>1</sup>  
Rapt and rejoicing, he strikes the chord  
Sounding his lyre to the praise of the Lord.

Mendelssohn.



And gathered around, mighty treasures are stored  
On life-breathing canvas, in fair forms of stone,  
A halo encircling each glorious one ;  
While winged to ascend to the pure æther blue  
Stands the genius of Poesy, holy and true.

*Song of the Poet.*

OH ! brighter than the gold rays of the sun  
Are poet-fancies, spun  
While yet the spirit mounts—the sky is clear,  
And unseen worlds are near ;  
Oh ! fairer still than moonbeam on the mountain,  
Or spray-foam from the fountain,  
The radiant visions that beguile  
Each fleeting hour, the while  
He tastes the bliss of Being, unconfined,  
Leaving the dark chill world behind.

*The Artist's Reverie.*

*Recitative.*

DOWN shadowy vistas o'er whose arching heights  
Angels invisible are brooding calm,  
'Mid sculptured frieze, rich frescoed tracery,

And marble presences endued with life  
Thro' the creative touch of master-hand—  
I pause !

From light more weird and magical  
Than starry beam, my spirit seeks the fire,  
With rapture not of earth—winged thoughts arise,  
Traverse the wide domain of Time and Space,  
And at my will the canvas lives and breathes !

*The Musician's Thought.*

MUSIC—music ! on the earth  
Thou art linked with uttered sound—  
Blinded sons of mortal birth  
Thus thy glorious empire bound.

But no—these uttered harmonies  
Are but the echo of thy voice ;—  
When souls from mortal trance arise  
Music shall wake—and Man rejoice.

## COURT OF NATURE.

THEN I pass beyond and view  
Nature's Court, with dome of blue,  
Bloom and verdure—breeze and dew.  
Life and Light pervading thro'  
Wonders rare of form and hue.

Gorgeous rays—and spreading heavens—  
Clouds of amber floating fast ;  
Bright enamelled meadows smiling,  
Trees in waving pride rejoicing ;  
Mountains wreathed in azure mist  
Rising from the purple heather,  
Rippling streamlets—bright cascades—  
Tinted rocks, and mossy glades—  
Wealth of flowers that strew the ground,  
Nature's glories spread around.

*Recitative.*

EVEN as these sunlit beauties meet my view,  
Upwards I gaze to hail the source of light—  
When 'mid the shower of beams that float around

One circling flame, less golden, more intense,  
Wrought to white heat, slowly descending, wreathes  
And curls its light amid the trembling leaves—  
Then pales from sight and vanishes ! With awe  
I gaze and listen, while a wondrous voice  
Wakens the echoes with a song of power.

*Song of the Spirit of Fire.*

My realm spreads far and wide !  
I dwell in the glorious orb that sheds  
Life, light and warmth on the worlds below,  
My power thro' myriad planets spreads,  
My fierce diffusive glow  
O'er all created space is felt,  
Where the crater seethes, and the cold snows melt—  
And my lightning blasting,  
In ruin casting  
The tall scathed pines on the mountain side,  
Makes the Nereids quake in their coral beds  
Through dread of my flashing spear ;  
And beasts in their lair,  
And birds in the air,  
Man upon earth—sprites floating above—

Hell-regnant powers,  
Fairies and flowers,  
View me with fear, or view me with love—  
For my power divine they know.

*Recitative and Air.*

FORTH from the glowing scene I turn, and view  
Fair meads whose wealth of fragrance wafted far  
Rises as incense to the empyrean ;  
The distant landscape meets the spreading sky,  
And tender purple fuses with the tints  
Of rainbow dye that herald sunset hour.  
Entranced, I watch the free birds poising high,  
Then lost 'mid feathery clouds of ambered white ;  
Entranced I listen, as, from far beyond  
The skylark's boldest flight—sweet sounds arise—  
While carol forth the 'Spirits of the Air.'

*Song of the Spirits of the Air.*

WE float beyond the cirri,  
While o'er our white wings tremble  
The golden rays, that gorgeous blaze  
From the circling orb of fire ;

Each pure night-star we see nigh,  
When, summoned to assemble,  
They ope their eyes to light the skies  
At the sound of a mystic Lyre ;

Thro' day and night ungrieving,  
We flit, and float, and quiver,  
While hosts unseen, throng the sunlit green  
Or cheer the gloom nocturnal—  
In nought but bliss believing,  
Rejoicing, gladsome, ever—  
We mock the chime of the bell of Time  
From the shining verge supernal.

*Recitative.*

THEY cease—and dies the music on mine ear,  
And fades the sea-green stretch of happy sky,  
Adown the copse, begirt with towering pines  
My steps I turn—thread verdant labyrinths,  
Ascend close moss-grown crags, that bend in vain  
To touch the limpid stream that laughs below—  
Scale stony pathways, bristling bright with gorse,  
And in their pride uplifting on the wind  
The waving banners of the golden birch—  
Emerge to freer air, and rise to view  
The crystal splendours of the flashing Force.

Down leaps the sparking shower of diamond spray,  
Bright glows each tinted crag, elate to meet  
The radiant glances of the 'Water-sprite.'  
'Mid wreathing mist, her fairy form appears,  
Clad as in robe of dewy gossamer,  
As fair, as lustrous, and as frail.

She smiles—

Now, lost in spray foam, murmurs discontent—  
Now, mounting joyous, on a wavelet's crest  
Her sweet voice breaks into a rippling song.

*Song of the Water-Sprite.*

I AM but mist to the Earth-Dwellers, dreaming  
With eyes that are closed to the Mystical world—  
Mere spray-foam that glances—slight ripple that  
dances—  
Light circlet of pearls adown mossy rock curled.

I am but mist ! and I shower forth in beauty,  
Then hide from the gaze of the sons of the earth ;  
Like a vanishing sigh—I breathe upwards to die  
And mutely sink back to the land of my birth.

Stormy clouds clearing—swift disappearing,  
My torrents meet Death as the Fire-god shines  
through—  
But wondrous my touch, when my love pleadeth much,  
Earth-flowers change to rainbows—earth-gemlets to  
dew.

*Recitative.*

INVISIBLE, the fair form passes swift—  
The notes are hushed, I gaze upon my lyre  
And sadly muse—‘ Shall earthly utterance  
Aspire to send its cadence to the sky,  
While myriad voices thus melodious sound ? ’  
Soft murmurs then a mystic answer—‘ Sing !—  
Since sweeter than the sweetest music poured,  
From fairy lips—is melody borne high  
On wings of Love—pure incense of the Soul.’

*Song of the Earth-Dwellers.*

’MID the garden’s leafy fragrance,  
Oft I muse alone, and sigh,  
While the soft breeze wafts the message  
‘ Come and bless me ! come and bless me !  
Radiant angel in the sky ;



Oh ! smile upon my sleeping,  
And still in holy keeping,  
Guard me, gentle angel, bending nigh—  
Heaven's glories set before me,  
The wings of Peace spread o'er me,  
That holy gift of blessing from on high.'

Nature speaks of love unfailing,  
Boundless power, and care for all ;  
He can send His holy angel—  
' Come and bless me ! come and bless me ! '  
Trusting, loving Him, I call.  
    A blissful Future nearing,  
    Thro' earthly clouds appearing,  
Let mystic rapture fill my happy heart ;  
    His hand outstretched to aid me,  
    When erring foes upbraid me,  
His voice of power still bidding fears depart.'

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CODA.

*Chorus.*

THEN let all hearts adore the LORD,  
Creator, Inspirer, Eternal Word—  
By Him, by Him alone, each gift is given—  
These Courts are but the Vestibule of Heaven !

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*By the same Author,*

## DAYTIME AND NIGHT-TIME:

POEMS.

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‘We are glad to see the Author of “Vasco”—a tragedy of high promise and more than average performance—once more in print. The poem before us reflects much of the melancholy mood and the subtle tenderness which made the Author’s former poem a work of singular interest and, let us add, attractiveness. The work is dedicated to the “dear memory” of some dead lady-friend—married or betrothed—if we may venture on conjecture from the following touching prelude..... “The Earl’s Warning” is a tragedy in miniature, and tells the story of a death-warning sent to the Earl in these words.....which is fulfilled with circumstances of terror very powerfully described in the pages before us. The

gem, however, of this delightful collection of poems is "Alkestis to Admetus," which we give in full, so sweet and tender is the spirit of these beautiful lines.'

*Evening Standard.*

"Daytime and Night-time" is one of those many little volumes of poems which are put forth by cultivated and thoughtful men, which seem to exercise not the least effect on the public. In the present volume good taste and good language abound. We are never offended by an uncouth image or metaphor.....the Author gives us a short poem on Alkestis. It is very pretty, and even very dainty; but when we come to compare it with a page of Browning we at once perceive the difference between talent and genius.'

*Westminster Review.*

'The Author of "Vasco" may fairly claim to take respectable rank among the minor poets of the period. Less tinged than most of our young makers of versicles with the gloomy and hopeless doubts or unbelief which have been made fashionable by Swinburne, Rossetti, and Morris, the Author of "Daytime and Night-time" is gifted with considerable powers of imagination and fancy; his versification is very good, his rhythm far above the average, and his subjects, though as various as the number of his poems, generally well chosen and appropriately treated. The earlier songs, which it is intimated were written under the influence of a happy and

prosperous love, are to our thinking better than the "Night-time" portion of the book, which dates subsequently to the destruction of the poet's happiness by death. "The Fairies," the "Mermaids," and "Iol ," all contain many beauties; but perhaps the gem of the collection is the short piece entitled "Alkestis to Admetus," which breathes the very essence of pure self-sacrificing love. The last four lines are a key to the text, and contain more than the germ of a thought.'

*Lady's Own Paper.*

'The Author of "Vasco" possesses considerable poetic power, although his gift is not of the highest order. Of all the poems contained in the little volume just published we prefer "The Five Stages," founded on the idea of the Good Shepherd, and the various phases through which His follower passes. We like the imagery in the opening lines of Stage I.'

*The Rock.*

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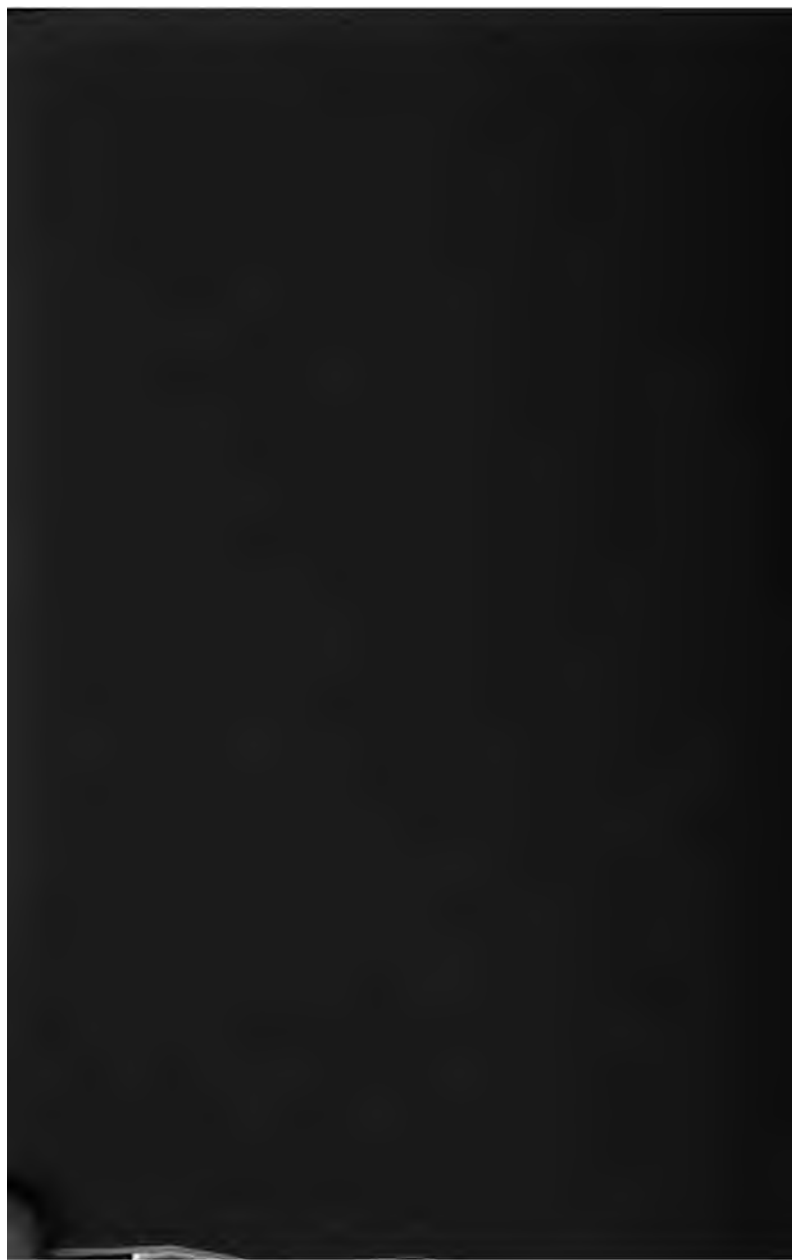
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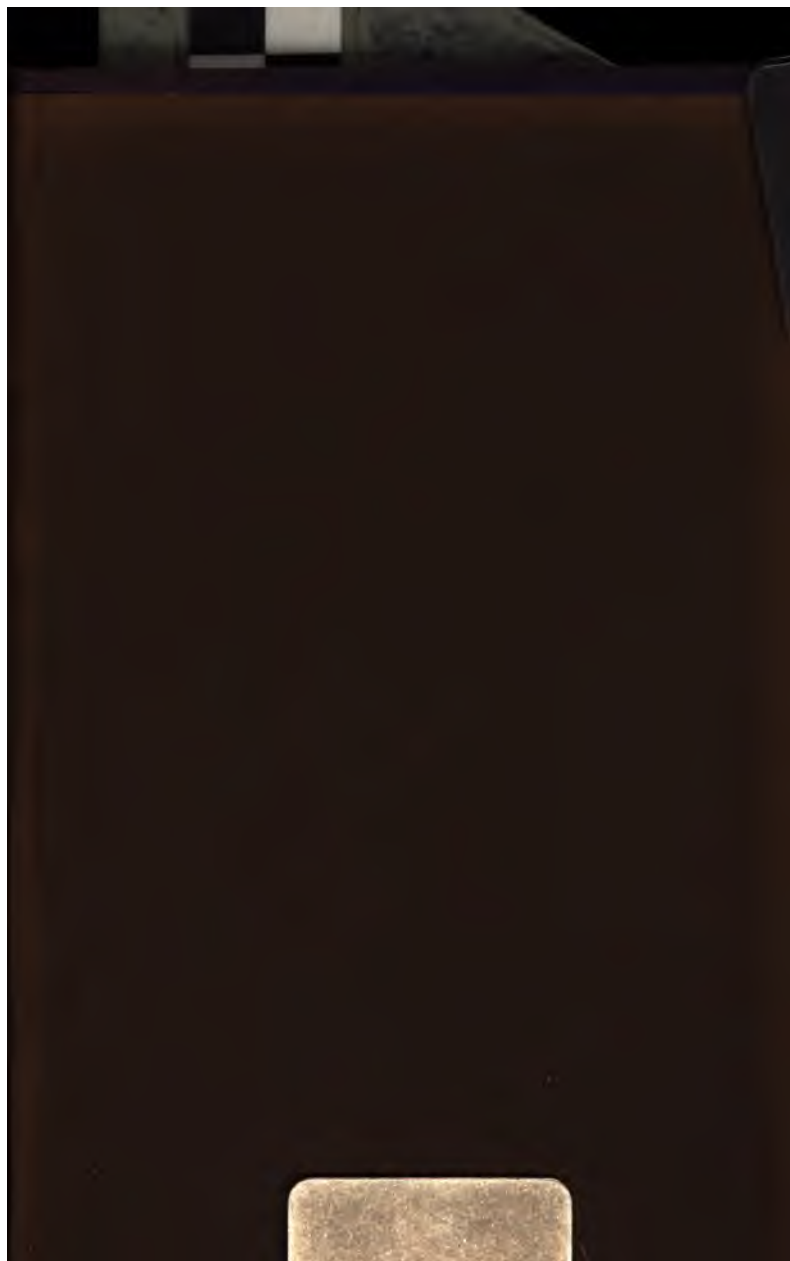
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